

Docket No: WELLISCH  
Appl. No: 09/720,520

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE:**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1 and 6 have been amended as follows:

1. (4X Amended) Electric motor including a stator and a rotor which defines a rotor axis and includes at least a stack of laminations layered by sheets and provided with slots for receiving rotor windings, wherein at an end face of the at least one stack of laminations, there is provided at least one rotor end sheet which abuts laterally in radial direction the stack of laminations and is made of high-strength fine-grain structural steel, wherein the rotor end sheet has a flat thin configuration and matches, at least in proximity of the rotor axis, a shape of the sheets layered in the stack of laminations.

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6. (3X Amended) An electric motor, comprising:
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- a stator; and
  - a rotor defined by a rotor axis and having a stack of laminations which is layered by sheets, said stack of laminations having opposite end faces, and two rotor end sheets, one of the rotor end sheets provided on one of the end faces of the stack of laminations, and the other one of the rotor end sheets provided on the other one of the end faces of the stack of laminations, each of said rotor end sheets abutting laterally in radial direction the stack of laminations and being made of high-strength fine-grain structural steel, wherein each of the rotor end sheets has a flat thin

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configuration and matches, at least in proximity of the rotor axis, a shape  
of the sheets layered in the stack of laminations.

Claims 10 and 11 have been added.

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This Amendment is submitted preliminary to the issuance of an Office Action in the present application and in response to the Official Action of October 23, 2002.

Record is also made of a telephone interview between applicant's representative and the Examiner which took place on December 16, 2002. The Examiner is thanked for his help and assistance as well as for the courtesies extended to Counsel at that time. During the course of the interview, the present application was extensively discussed in light of the final rejection of independent claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rank et al. in view of Jones. More specifically, applicant's representative pointed out that the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the flat and thin configuration of the rotor end sheets. The Examiner agreed that the subject matter of claims 1 and 6 is distinguishable over the prior art of record; however, an updated search is needed to make a final determination about patentability of the independent claims 1 and 6.

As further discussed during the interview, applicant also submits new claims 10 and 11 which set forth the magnetic character of the rotor end sheets.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is considered patentably differentiated over the prior art of record and believed to be in immediate conditions for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are thus respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-0502.

Respectfully submitted,

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